

REMARKS

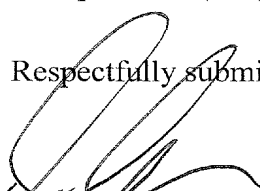
Applicants respectfully request entry of the present amendment prior to further examination of the claims in response to the concurrently filed RCE.

As understood by Applicants, the Final Official Action was issued on the basis of an alleged absence of a definition of the term "growing" recited in independent Claims 9 and 16. *Final Official Action, page 6*. Applicants' specification does define the recitation of "selectively growing." See, for example, Applicants' specification at page 7, lines 13-22. Further, Applicants submit that the HPD-CVD discussed in the cited references does not disclose "selectively growing" as **the HPD-CVD in the prior art is not selective**.

In addition to the above reasons, Applicants have amended Claims 9 and 16 to further distinguish the present subject matter from the prior art. For example, the Claim 9 now further recites that the "upper surface of the pattern and sidewalls of the gap [are] a non-oxide layer" and "the bottom oxide layer [is etched] inside an opening in the gap to expose the upper surface of the pattern and side walls of the gap so that a residual bottom oxide layer remains only at a bottom of the gap" and selectively growing a top oxide layer on the residual bottom oxide layer faster than on the non-oxide layer," which (in combination with the remaining recitations of claim 9) is not disclosed or suggested by the cited art.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of all rejections and the allowance of all claims in due course. If any informal matters arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned via telephone at (919) 854-1400.

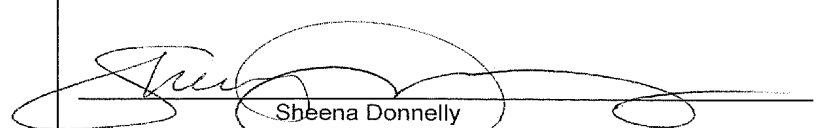
Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on March 2, 2007.


Sheena Donnelly